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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9060
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0073
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0036
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUEHMK/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000758

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/25/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [EAID](#) [KISL](#) [IZ](#) [MY](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: MALAYSIA WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO COALITION,
BUT MIGHT RESPOND TO DIRECT IRAQI REQUESTS FOR CIVILIAN AID

REF: A. STATE 54925 - NEW WAY FORWARD ON IRAQ

- [1](#)B. KUALA LUMPUR 419 - FM CONSIDERS BAGHDAD VISIT
- [1](#)C. KUALA LUMPUR 381 - PAKISTAN INITIATIVE
- [1](#)D. 06 KUALA LUMPUR 2271 - MALAYSIA'S OIC ROLE

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark reasons 1.4 (b and d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Although Malaysia clearly would reject any approach to provide military resources to support the Iraq Coalition, it might consider a request by the Iraqi government for modest civilian assistance if this were made directly to the GOM by the Iraqi government itself. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) Malaysia as a matter of policy opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. While Prime Minister Abdullah once suggested the notion of a Malaysian military medical unit being sent to Iraq, nothing came of this suggestion and, since that time, the GOM has periodically criticized the continued presence of coalition forces in Iraq. This has included the Prime Minister and other senior officials describing Iraq Coalition actions as in violation of international law. Malaysian public opinion, particularly within the Malay/Muslim majority, also strongly opposes U.S.-led actions in Iraq. Malaysia deploys its competent peacekeepers to UN-led missions, including an on-going contribution to UNIFIL in Lebanon and the Prime Minister has mused about the possibility of OIC member forces somehow replacing the U.S.-led coalition. Given its opposing policy on Iraq, however, Malaysia would reject any approach to provide military resources to support the current Iraq Coalition.

[1](#)3. (C) Post has quietly encouraged the Malaysian government to assist in bolstering the capacity of Iraq's civilian authorities. Malaysia has provided some training to a limited number of Iraqi diplomats and has played host to several Parliamentary delegations from Baghdad (ref B). The visits usefully served to confirm Malaysia's recognition of the elected Iraqi government as legitimate. We believe that Malaysia could consider some modest requests for assistance if these are made by the Iraqi government directly to Malaysia. The Iraqi government would need to describe the

request as supporting its own goals. Because Malaysian officials question the security environment in Iraq (and their chancery property is outside the Green Zone), the assistance ideally would be delivered outside Iraq (e.g., training officials in Malaysia) or involve minimum Iraq travel by Malaysians.

¶4. (C) As current OIC chairman, Prime Minister Abdullah has focused rhetoric and some effort on moving OIC countries to take more practical steps to help fellow Muslims (ref D). Over the past six months, Prime Minister Abdullah has demonstrated an increased foreign policy interest in the Middle East, reflected in the UNIFIL deployment, participation in the Pakistan Initiative (ref C), and stepped up senior official travel to the region. At this juncture, a modest Iraqi government request for civilian aid might match with Malaysia's aspirations to provide a good example for the OIC and take on a greater role in the Middle East issues that attract the concern of Malaysia's Muslims.
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